

Access to natural gas could save Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss consumers \$27M annually in lower energy costs

February 25, 2015

Today Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss released a report prepared by Elenchus Research Associates Inc. which estimates the economic and environmental benefits of expanding natural gas distribution services to their communities. The report concludes that annual energy cost savings in the residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial and municipal sectors could total \$27M per year once the new gas utility is fully up and running. The report also estimates that annual CO2 emissions could be reduced by 20,356 kg per year through switching from the currently available fuels to cleaner, cheaper natural gas.

“The Elenchus Report provides additional important information in support of expanding natural gas to our area” said Mayor Anne Eadie of Kincardine. Arran-Elderslie Mayor Paul Eagleson said “ the natural gas business case we released to the public last fall shows that a new gas utility could be viable for our area. This latest report underscores the conclusions and recommendations in the business case”.

Mayor Mitch Twolan of Huron-Kinloss said, “in addition to the direct economic and environmental benefits described in the Elenchus Report, we know there will be other indirect benefits to our communities. By finally having access to natural gas, we will remove an impediment to development in our area by “leveling the playing field” with neighbouring municipalities who already have gas. Having no access to natural gas clearly is an impediment to new investment and jobs in our communities”.

On February 17, 2015 Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli wrote to the Ontario Energy Board reiterating that the Province is fully committed to expanding natural gas to service more communities in rural and Northern Ontario. The Province has also announced \$230M in funding for gas expansions.

“Our next step is for Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss to jointly issue a Request of Information solicitation aimed at canvassing the marketplace for potential partners and operators of a new natural utility in the area” said Mayor Eadie. “ We expect to receive information proposals from multiple potential partners by late spring”.

A copy of the Elenchus Report can be found on the municipal websites of Kincardine, Arran-Elderslie and Huron-Kinloss.

For More Information please contact:

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